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April 24, 2014

Tom Wheeler
Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
tom.wheeler@fcc.gov

Received & Inspected

APR 29 2014

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing in regard to the recent discussions in this country about the future of communications as a whole. I refer specifically to "communications" as opposed to "the internet," as all forms of communication, whether voice, fax, or data, use the internet as the means of transmission. This understanding is key, for, prior to the invention of the internet, voice providers were classified as common carriers yet ISP's are not. This classification effectively barred service providers from providing or selling preferential treatment to customers.

Today, the internet is on the tipping point between two worlds: one that is free of limitations and open to all, and one in which preference will be given to the highest bidder. In the latter world, you are providing single content providers tools to lockout the dominant market leadership. For example, imagine allowing Fedex to buy for itself an entire lane on all freeways and roads. UPS, USPS, DHL, and good old grandma would be restricted from using that lane every time a Fedex truck needed it. According to the FTC, such a restriction would be an anti-competitive policy. Additionally, to continue the analogy, appropriation of lanes to the highest bidder to the exclusion of other travelers would cause traffic congestion and loss of time to all other motorists.

The same consequences will result if Net Neutrality is removed or "Pay-for-priority" is allowed. Youtube, Netflix, or Amazon could completely dominate the video market, which would have a chilling effect on any new competitors. Furthermore, Facebook, Google, and Bing would have no need to build nearly as many datacenters, which would result in job loss as well as loss of revenue to municipalities from property taxes. Small startups like Duckduckgo would lose traffic hits as the service would be slower in comparison to Google's. The ability to provide priority over traffic, in addition to bandwidth costs, creates far too great of a gap between startups and entrenched businesses.

I would urge extreme caution in making your decisions on May 15. The internet is one of the greatest inventions of our century, and these decisions will inevitably effect its future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Rahl